

Montgomery County, MD
COUNTYWIDE RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Monday, May 10th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present Board: Karen Kincer, Dave Pullen, Helaine Resnick, Carl Blake, Michael Ma, Don Hawkins, Felecia Wilson, M. Sasse, Mark Pharaoh, Melanie Stickle, Chris Richardson, Michael Shimoff, Marcus Coleman, and Alison Gillespie

Ex-Officio: Marsha Weber, Ramona Pearson, Myrian Paul

Staff: Sandra Samuel, Trish Walsh, Robin Riley, John Nissel, Doug Ludwig

Absent: Adriane Clutter, Traci Anderson, Jeff Sullivan, and Benjamin DuGoff

Guest: Trish Swann, and Hyojung Garland

Meeting called to order by Karen Kincer at 7:03 pm.

Welcome and Announcements – Chair

- Karen Kincer welcomed the board and guests

Community Announcements –

- Carl - Friends of Warner Circle, an advocacy group for Kensington residents, is submitting a petition and sent a letter to Marc Elrich and the County Council in support of the proposal to revitalize Warner Mansion and Carriage House.

Review of Agenda

- Add June meeting to the decision
- Motion made by Dave Pullen and Mark Pharaoh seconded. Approved.

Review of Minutes from March and April

- With minor corrections, Motion made by Dave Pullen and Mark Pharaoh seconded. Approved.

Reports

Officers and Committee Reports

Ex Officio Reports

Community Use of Public Facilities – Ramona Bell Pearson, Director of CUPF

- CUPF is working closely with MCPS to allow providers with permits and licenses to do the before and aftercare; summer schools open will provide aftercare for parents and the schools ending at noon. The aftercare will be a summer camp. This camp will a Wraparound program.
- The Black and Brown Coalition and the Children's Opportunity Fund are working in those zip codes to identify schools they provide support. The Council supports this. Also, it is a public, private funding situation with some availability to private funds.

- HHS, CUPF, MCRD, and other groups work together with the Council to ensure zip codes are covered to prevent childcare deserts.
- CUPF is planning to reopen for community use starting with government facilities in the week of May for evening and weekend coverage.
- Once schools end for the year, and before summer schools start in July, CUPF will be permitted to use MCPS facilities using only Multipurpose room and the gym. Only for weekends with strict provisions and comply with all health codes and COVID restrictions such as mask-wearing doing the events, cleaning in the high touched areas, monitoring the headcount, and social distancing.
- Michael Ma – with community use with school facilities using only the multipurpose and the gym doing the summer, do you anticipate that situation will continue continued in the coming fall semester, or the school may open more facilities for community uses.
 - At this point, we don't know but very specific, stating no access to the classrooms as in-person classes are in session. So, this may be the current situation for quite a while.
- Helaine Resnick – As the COVID numbers continued to improve and the knowledge of transmission from the airborne and the droplets, will their anticipation that the cleaning regimen will relax a little in response to evolution and evidence as it is very labor-intensive?
 - MCPS uses hydrostatic cleaning sprayers. It is only applied to the high touched surface and restrooms. The permit holder must clean their space. The deep cleaning happens at the end of day and weekend.

Commission on Aging – Marcia Weber

- Annually met with Council County on our priorities, and it went well.
- Robin thanked Marcia for the support and stated \$250,000 was added for senior programs.

Community Action Board – Myriam Paul

- Head Start has about 45 slots remaining; applications are available.
- EITC working on getting the community funding during this time

Montgomery County Public Schools – Jeff Sullivan

- Karen reported on Jeff's behalf; Spring sports are going well and using all fields for graduations.

Commission on People with Disabilities – Benjamin DuGoff

- No report

MCRD – Robin Riley

- MCRD is opening two senior centers, Holiday Park Senior Center and Damascus Senior Center, on June 14th.
- PHED session last week, PHED Ed and back to Council on Friday to get the votes to restore our cuts and added some funding to our senior programs.
- Majority of our Summer camps full.
- Teens fun centers, and in addition to contracts camps, will continue to add centers as things open back up

- Starting today with a full staff back to MCRD allowing time to sort camps at a few sites, Scotland Community Center, Wisconsin Place, Clare Barton
- We are working with a faith-based group in the Aspin Hill area to add a site there.
- Working closely with Public Health as vaccines transition from mass vaccination sites, White Oak Recreation Center and Wheaton, between 1000 to 1300 a day. Our goal is to move more into neighborhoods pocket vaccine sites, aiming for June.
- Launched a sports initiative, two sites, Up County and Down County, on Saturday afternoon to introduce youth sports to young people. Starting this Saturday, there will be eight sites for two days a week, either Tuesday or Wednesday and Saturday and Sunday, with the same initiative.
- Will present in the Fall on Silver Spring Regional and Aquatic Rec. Center, which is part of the Elizabeth House Senior Center Complex.
- Alison Gillespie – Stated concerns about senior not having senior centers as the most vaccinated group, 86% in the county, and with nothing to do. What are the other options?
 - Our senior team has a remarkable job doing remote zoom classes and other outdoor courses. We will continue to do outdoor classes when we can. Long Branch is our senior center; however, the homeless shelter will continue to September and then an additional two to clean and refresh.
 - Working with Parks using some of their park building for summer camps as we don't have access to schools. We tried to find local renter facilities, but they're not available.
 - Allison – will need more renter facilities.
 - Marsha – Offered Community Uses Aging assistance.
 - Dave – Is Take Flight apart of the MCRD. Robin responded no.

Parks Report - John Nissel

- Thanked CUPF and MCRD continued support
- Enterprise Trains and Carousel reopened on April 23rd sold over 7300 rides only 25 % capacity; went to 50% on April 27th. Also, open on weekends; it will open full-time when schools out.
- Boat facilities at Lake Needwood and Black Hill are doing well; 128 sites and 242 boating permits sold.
- South Germantown Driving Range has 109 people registered for spring golf; 72 registered for archery
- The Splash Park will open on Memorial weekend.
- PBA Tennis Center and Wheaton Indoor Tennis has registered over 740 people for spring classes
- Parks sump camps are full; a waitlist has been started; 1500 kids registered for summer camps; had to cancel Adventure Camp due to riding the bus without social distancing.
- Starting on May 1st, the Brookside Nature Center will be open from 10 am to 4 pm. Statics show 16,000 cars came through in the last week or so.
- “Facet of Hope” will honor those we have lost, suspending one strand of crystal in memory of each life lost in Montgomery County with local coverage on the news.
- Starting a new pilot program (8 weeks), Strolls for Well-being, starting in the Fall, working with health agencies to assist with the cost.
- Two big donors project at Brookside Gardens From \$170,000 to \$270,000.

- Nature Programs are up and running; Maydale Nature Classroom is now opened as well as Brookside Gardens.
- Brookside Gardens' Native plant sale, sold over 3000 plants; we did the same in conjunction with Montgomery Parks' Arbor Day
- 65 more hazardous trees across the county, staying proactive in removing ash trees, nothing goes to landfills, mill the wood, and repurpose, grind the wood for mulch or wood chips.
- From the repurpose woods made the millwork at the new Wheaton HQ building
- Parks has 570 ball fields maintained weekly; thanked CUPF for their patience with the ball field permitting program
- Excited working with MCRD providing spaces for summer camps
- Met with PHED on our operating budget and it went well. Put some items on the reconciliation list. More to come on the budget.

Software Migration and Summer Program Expectations – Robin /John

- We are working well together, will start Spring of next year
- Will do a presentation to showcase the product
- Melanie – It is ActiveMONTGOMERY software?
 - The company name is Active. The URL will continue to be ActiveMONTGOMERY, same link
 - New company is Vermont System, Inc (VSI)
- Felecia would like to volunteer for the software migration.
- Chris – The activities around the county in terms of location, do we run an evaluation of ourselves regarding the activities across the county? Whether it's Clarksburg, Germantown vs. Eastside vs. Silver Spring, and what type of activity regarding who's getting the most from MCRD and Parks. Also, look at our we can better serve those in parts of the County that are underserved.
 - Robin – The County and The County Council has issued Racial Equity and Social Justice. Each department was asked to go through a training process with our staff and create a working committee. In our working committee, we have two co-chairs. Our Comprehensive Racial Equity Social training is **on June 23rd and 24th**. Our core team consists of 12 people. One of their tasks is program services and delivery, mapping where services and programs are provided, and overlaying with sensor data creating customer focus groups. Identifying the variables to participation, it is fees, communications.
 - John – We have an active Urban Program, and everything that we do in that program, we lay the equity lens over top of that. This program is involved in where we place activities and programs to consist of all parts of underserved county. Parks conducted an Racial Equity Training for all supervisors last month and will continue to do that. We don't program as much as MCRD does. However, we partner with other agencies with big events.
 - Karen – Devote a meeting to the data in Fall; with a couple of people from both sides to present to the board
 - Allison – Parks is awesome with the equity lens. Also, in the Fall, we should look at our response access to transit and family programming.

Skate Park Update – Hyojung Garland

- Background
 - In 2011, approved Vision 2020: Indicates a need to address the growing demand for skateboarding facilities, especially in urban areas, to update policies, maximize partnerships and identify opportunities to add in areas of greatest need.
 - PROS Plan and Vision 2030PROS (Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan) – future unmet need: 9 facilities: Olney Manor, Woodside, K-Town, Takoma Piney Branch, Kentland, Lakelands, Rockville, Gaithersburg, and Poolesville
- Criteria for Analysis of Initial List - Research Data was conducted in the following:
 - Parks in Proximity to Urban and Urbanizing
 - Proximity defined as parks within a half-mile of urban and Urbanizing Area
 - Inventory and Data Collections of Initial list
 - Initial list of parks that were within a half-mile of urban and urbanizing areas including the following: Park type, Acres, PROS Service Area, Existing facilities, Natural Resource Constraints, Parking – Maybe exceeding Parking, and Potential Conflicts
 - Analyze and Score Initial List
- Criteria for Site Suitability
 - Natural Resource Constraints
 - Apply Resource Atlas, A GIS mapping tool for creating an analysis map like Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) required by Forest Conservation
- Criteria for Analysis of Initial List: Skate consists of the following: 10,000 sqft of unconstrained land (courts or parking), within walking distance (1/4 mile) of MS or HS, on a transit route (bus or metro), not directly adjacent to residences, Parking (Draft PDD standards say 20 spaces per acre so for 10k sqft = 5 spaces these are envisioned as walk-to facilities, NO CPTED issues (using Google Street View to access sites initially).
- Funding - Potential Funding Sources: Facility Plan (i.e. Dewey Local Park incl. Dog Park), Level of Effort, Urban Park PDF: \$500k+/-/yr., takes 2yr for the next project (skate Park, Dog Park, and Community Garden)
- Chris – Request a copy for distribution to the board. If I lived in Poolesville, there is no possibility of me getting a skating facility? We had a presentation from Poolesville and Clarksburg; they seemed never to get anything.
 - FYI - There is a Poolesville Skate park. We are competing for funding sources where priority goes where the most population is.
- Chris – Would consider repurposing any under-utilized area?
 - Yes, we are looking into repurposing Parks under-utilized surfaces. Either convert or overlay for multipurpose.
- Karen – I will follow up with John to create a statement from the board about skateparks.
- John – Warrants more discussion and suggest another presentation
- John will submit the presentation to Karen; Karen will email to the board

Parks Maintenance Concerns Ongoing & Preventative – Trish Swann

- What We Manage – 424 Parks, 490 Stream Miles, 37,072 Acres Parkland, 363 (Parks) Fields, 68.6 Miles Paved Trails, 201 Miles NS Trails, 276 Playgrounds, 532 Courts, 28

PABs, 136 Picnic Shelters, 6 Dog Parks (Heavily Used), 739 SWM Assets, and 48 Exercise Stations

- Parks Maintenance the following: Athletic Field Maintenance & Turf Care, Snow & Trash Removal, Wood Fiber, Weed Removal (Playgrounds), Daily, Weekly, & Monthly Inspections (Parks and Playgrounds), Stormwater Mgmt., Custodial (PABs), and Hard Surface & Natural Trails.
- We create work orders to systematically process and complete maintenance work in timely manner to eliminate asset downtime.
- Work order completion depends on the availability of other maintenance resources such as assets, equipment, staff, and funding.
- We created a systematic way to move a task through our operations steps by categorizing work orders as routine and non-routine.
- Non-routine work order is created when a customer contact us with a request. Routine work orders are generated by our EAM system according to a maintenance standard. Over 1000 work orders are generated monthly.
- Our work order process is the blueprint for our success.
- For general questions or concerns about our parks and facilities please contact our Customer Service Parks Information and Customer Service Office at info@montgomeryparks.org, call us: 301-495-2595, or visit our website, www.montgomeryparks.org/services/report-a-problem.
- Melanie – When a work order is pending, is there an end-user/dashboard to track the report/request?
 - A work order is generated with each request and can be tracked that way
- Allison – Expressed concerns about the response time to work orders.
- Karen – Suggested updating the website with language stated the magnitude of work orders
- John - Working on a better follow-up system for the customer. We will take the suggestions and concerns back to the EAM teams.
- Chris – With the uptick of needs in the Parks, did you hire more people?
 - With the 6% Saving Plan, we were limited on hiring people. It is difficult to hire right now; the hiring process is long, up to 2 months to hire someone.
- Chris – Is the opportunity for volunteers support on the customer service side? Maybe using young people who need service hours at home with a computer. Could that help your department from a customer service standpoint?
 - Yes, we have a large robust Volunteer program with the Parks.

Nominating Committee Report – Dave Pullen

- Nominating Committee for consideration
 - Karen Kincer – Chair
 - Carl Blake – Vice Chair
 - Executive Committee – Marcus Coleman, Mark Pharaoh, and Felecia Wilson
- Karen will email the board for review, questions, and discussion.

June Meeting – Karen Kincer

- Suggested meeting in-person for our June 14th meeting at one of the facilities/parks. Taking a short tour and then enjoying dinner with our discussion.
- Mark suggested in-person at a park; being outside will make people feel more comfortable than inside.

- Carl – Open to an in-person meeting
- Allison – Would love to visit a facility/Park in East County
- Felecia – Will we be voting next month, and if so, how are we going to do that?
 - Karen – Yes. It depends on in-person or virtual.
 - Express sending an email with any concerns to be addressed
 - Will contact John and Robin to discuss details.
 - Robin – Suggested Holiday Park or White Oak
 - Will provide box lunches

9:02 Adjourned